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17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

Investigation of socioeconomic backgrounds of class of 1962 showed that composition of college population remained the same despite change in location and housing of college. Areas examined were: Age and sex, curriculum preference, race, religion, politics, birthplace, community, family, parental backgrounds, economic status, commuting, finances and employment, and leisure.

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Socio-Economic Backgrounds of the Class of 1962

Newark State College

Prepared by Dr. John C. Hutchinson Jr.
Superintendent
Dec. 1958

Fundamental changes in the social composition of a college population apparently require more than increases in numbers of students and a change in the location and housing of a college. The members of the Class of 1962, about 450 of them, come from essentially the same backgrounds from which the last eight freshman classes were drawn. The historic move of the college during the past year to its new 120-acre campus has not so far brought with its perceptible changes in the social characteristics of the entering students. To the regular reader of this series of college reports, there will be a kind of sociological monotony in the account which follows. A pattern of persistence in these social data has long since been established, and this most recent inventory involves no measurable shift in the trends.

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Age and Sex

The overwhelming majority of Newark State freshmen are in their eighteenth year. The proportion of over-age, married students in this class is actually smaller than in the preceding one. Eleven of the eighteen married freshmen have a total of twenty-one children.

Newark State is still a woman's college, three-to-one. However, in the Class of 1962, the men constitute twenty-seven per cent of the total, whereas in the two previous years the percentage of men in the class ran just under twenty.

Curriculum Preference

Newark State remains predominately a general elementary college. While the secondary majors are on the increase, the general elementary group keeps its half of the class. The changes in numbers attracted to the various programs are hardly significant.

Race, Religion and Politics

The twenty Negro students in the Class of 1962 make up less than five per cent of the total, a decline in both number and proportion from the year before.

Of 447 students reporting, 220 (about half) are Roman Catholic, 127 (28%)are Protestant, and 90 (almost 20%) are Jewish, with the remainder not stating their religious membership. Of the 220 Catholic students, only sixty-seven attended parochial high school.

Democrats number 169 this year, Republicans 144, independents are 16 and 118 students chose not to state their choice.

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Birthplace, Community and Family

Eighty-four per cent of the Newark State Freshmen this year were born in New Jersey, two-thirds of them in Essex County. Sixty-six students were born in other states, and just six were foreign born.

Just over one-half of the class come out of medium sized towns and cities (15,000-100,000), with a third residents of large cities (over 100,000) and the balance drawn from smaller places of less than 15,000 population.

Of the 447 families of students represented this year, 49 have just the one child now a freshman, 190 families have two children, 105 have three, 40 have four, 34 have five children and twenty-nine have six or more children.

The Fathers of the Members of the Class of 1962

Birthplace: New Jersey, 201; other in United States, 127; foreign born, 103 (24%).

Schooling: elementary, 86; junior high, 69; high school, 181; beyond high school, 53; college graduates, 45.

Occupation: Business, 70; professional, 42; skilled workers, 99; unskilled, 163. Eleven of the fathers are reported retired, and twenty-four deceased.

Of the fathers employed, eighty per cent are employees, twenty per cent self employed.

The Mothers of Freshmen

Birthplace: New Jersey, 219; other United States, 133; foreign born, 61(15%).

Schooling: elementary, 61: junior high, 89; senior high school, 212; beyond high school, 41; college graduates, 35.

Two-thirds of the mothers of freshmen are reported to be home-makers. Of the third employed outside of their homes, twenty-eight are business and professional women, twelve are school teachers, and ninety-eight are employed in industry.

Economic Status

Incomes of these Newark State families were reported as follows:

Under $3000 per year		14 students
$3000 - 4900		81
$5000 - 7000		132
Over $7000		47
	total	274
Income not known		176

All but twenty-six families own an automobile; all but ten have telephone service; and all but seven own television.

Seventy per cent of the family homes are owned.

Cummuting

In March of 1958, Newark State College moved eight miles southward to Union Township. The distance from home to college was reported for the Class of 1962 as follows:

Under five miles	128 students
Five - nine miles	146
Ten - fourteen miles	71
Over fifteen miles	96
Total reporting	441

These distances are roughly equal to those reported by the Class of 1961 a year before.

A real change in commuting patterns has occured, however, in the means of transportation employed. The means reported by the classes of 1961 and 1962 are tabulated below:

	Class '61	Class '62
Automobile	137	289
Bus	157	85
Train	31	10
Walk	6	9
Total students	331	393

Finances and Employment

Parents are the principal source of financial support in the case of 204 students; 126 freshmen are self-supporting. About seventeen per cent of the class report holding some kind of scholarship.

Approximately a third of the class was working for wages in September 1958. Thirty-two worked nine hours or less per week; 75 students worked between ten and nineteen hours; 28 worked from twenty to twenty-nine hours; ten students worked over thirty hours a week while attending college. Sixty-eight of the working students were employed in sales and thirty-two in clerical capacities, with forty-seven in widely scattered jobs.

Leisure

Newark State freshmen this year report leisure-time choices much as past classes have indicated. Reading was mentioned by 250 students; sports by 224; music by 102; sewing by 29.

Conclusion

In no measurable respect is this Class of 1962 different from the last several classes. The social characteristics of Newark State freshmen have been notably stable over the past decade. The social composition of this college population appears to persist in the face of changes in numbers, in programs offered and now in location and physical facilities.

John C. Hutchinson
December 1958